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NATIONAL PHOTOGRAPHIC
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Summary Report

MODIFICATIONS TO THE HORIZONTAL TEST POSITION, BIYSK SOLID TEST AREA II, USSR (TSR)



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MODIFICATIONS TO THE HORIZONTAL TEST POSITION, BIYSK SOLID MOTOR TEST AREA II, USSR (TSR)

(TSR) Major modifications were made to the horizontal test position at Biysk Solid Motor Test Area II, USSR [REDACTED]

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These modifications have made the test position the largest horizontal test position within the USSR for testing solid-propellant motors. The thrust block has been significantly enlarged and the area of heat-resistant concrete blocks directly in front of the thrust block has also been enlarged. Additional improvements to the test position include resloping the barricade surrounding the thrust block, resurfacing the concrete apron leading into the test position, and reconstructing two instrumentation stations.

(TSR) Prior to the modifications, the thrust block had a volume of approximately 195 cubic meters (Figure 1). It now has a volume of approximately 412 cubic meters, more than double its previous volume. By comparison, the Big Block, a static test firing position in Test Area 5, Redstone Arsenal, US Army Missile Command, has a volume of approximately 550 cubic meters and provides a static loading capability of 10 million pounds thrust.

(TSR) This new volume at Biysk Test Area II is approximately 1.5 times greater than the approximate 275-cubic-meter volumes of the thrust blocks at the horizontal test positions of Pavlograd Solid Motor Test Facility [REDACTED] and Krasnoarmeysk Isolated Motor Test Area [REDACTED]. Large ICBM-sized solid propellant motors have been static tested at these two facilities.

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(TSR) After construction on the thrust block (Figure 2), the sides of the barricade surrounding the thrust block were resloped. So far, no new instrumentation monitors have been installed on top of the resloped barricade. The apron leading into the test position was resurfaced with concrete blocks. The area of heat-resistant blocks, which is on the apron and directly in front of the thrust block, has also been expanded, both in length and width (Figure 3).

(TSR) The two instrumentation stations at the test position were reconstructed after the modification to the thrust block. One of these stations is adjacent to the thrust block and has a volume of approximately 340 cubic meters and an area of approximately 86 square meters (Figure 2). This station is connected to the outside by a personnel passageway through the barricade. The second instrumentation station is on the east, outer side of the barricade, at the approximate location of a former instrumentation station (Figure 3). This new station has an area of approximately 180 square meters and is larger than the instrumentation station which it replaces.

(TSR) The modifications to this test position indicate a significant improvement in the thrust capability of this test position. Comparison with other large, horizontal test positions in the USSR and the US indicates that new, larger solid-propellant rocket motors probably will eventually be static tested at this position.

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